


Amendments to the Claims

D 1. (Twice Amended) A method of defining and producing a finished mail piece, comprising the steps of:

- (a) selecting at a first node, a plurality of characteristics which together define a mailing;
- (b) creating a document and storing said document in electronic form, then directing that said stored document be included in a print job comprising said mailing;
- (c) creating an address list comprising one or more destination addresses and storing said address list in electronic form and then selecting said stored address list for inclusion in said print job;
- (d) transmitting electronically said print job to a terminal node wherein said terminal node is not co-located with, nor under the control of, said first node;
- (e) receiving said print job at said terminal node, said terminal node for receiving said print job and for directing said print job to a mail production means for producing said mail piece, said mail production means further comprising:
 - (i) a first printer; and
 - (ii) a second printer;
- (f) printing on said first printer said destination address to an envelope wherein each of said destination addresses is printed to a corresponding envelope;
- (g) printing on said second printer said document, wherein said document is printed in accordance with characteristics selected at said first node;

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- (h) inserting said printed document into said printed envelope to form an unfinished mail piece;
 - (i) sealing said unfinished mail piece;
 - (j) franking said unfinished mail piece, in accordance with characteristics selected at said first node and with characteristics determined at said second node, in order to form a finished mail piece; and
 - (k) placing said finished mail piece into a mail stream for delivery to said destination address printed thereon.

18. (Twice Amended) The system of claim 15, wherein said system further comprises a plurality of nodes wherein one node is an initiating node and a second node is a terminal node;[,] and, if there are more than two nodes in said system, then said first and said second printer means are located at said terminal node.


20. (Amended) A method of defining and producing a mail piece, comprising the steps of:

- selecting at a first node a plurality of characteristics which define a mailing;
- creating a document and storing said document in electronic form;
- creating an address list comprising one or more destination addresses and storing said address list in electronic form;

transmitting said document, said address list and said characteristics to a terminal mode wherein said terminal node is not co-located with, nor under the control of, said first node;

receiving said document, said address list and said characteristics at said terminal node and directing said document, said address list and said characteristics to a mail production means;

printing each of said destination addresses to a corresponding envelope;

 printing said document in accordance with one or more of said characteristics selected at said first node;

inserting said printed document into a corresponding printed envelope to form the mail piece; [and]

providing said printed envelope with evidence of postage payment; and

placing the mail piece into a mail stream for delivery to said destination address printed thereon.

21. (Amended) A method according to claim 20, [further comprising providing] wherein the evidence of postage payment is in accordance with one or more of said characteristics selected at said first [note]node.

22. Cancel

38. (Twice Amended) A system for producing a mail piece, comprising:

first data processing means for selecting a document, selecting an address list including one or more destination addresses, and selecting a plurality of characteristics which define a mailing;

second data processing means for electronically receiving said selected document, address list and characteristics and directing said selected document, address list and characteristics to a mail production means, wherein said second data processing means is not co-located with, nor under the control of, said first data processing means;

D/ said mail production means comprising first means for printing said selected document in accordance with one or more of said selected characteristics, second means for printing each of said destination addresses to a corresponding envelope, means for printing said corresponding envelope with evidence of postage payment, and means for inserting said printed document into a corresponding printed envelope.

40. (Amended) A system according to claim 38, said mail production means further comprising means for providing the corresponding printed envelope with evidence of postage payment in accordance with one or more of said selected characteristics.

41. Cancel.

42. (Amended) A system according to claim [41]38, wherein said postage payment is in accordance with one or more of said selected characteristics.

51. (Amended) The method according to claim [22]21, wherein said evidence of postage is a permit mail postal indicia.

52. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein said evidence of postage is a postal indicia that indicates the amount of postage that has been paid.

53. (New) A method of defining and producing a finished mail piece, comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting at a first node, a plurality of characteristics which together define a mailing;

(b) creating a document and storing said document in electronic form; then directing that said stored document be included in a print job comprising said mailing;

(c) creating an address list comprising one or more destination addresses and storing said address list in electronic form and then selecting said stored address list for inclusion in said print job;

(d) transmitting said print job to a terminal node wherein said terminal node is not co-located with, nor under the control of, said first node;

(e) receiving said print job at said terminal node; said terminal node for receiving said print job and for directing said print job to a mail production means for producing said mail piece, said mail production means further comprising;

(i) a first printer; and

(ii) a second printer;

(f) printing on said first printer said destination address to an envelope wherein each of said destination addresses is printed to a corresponding envelope;

(g) printing on said second printer said document, wherein said document is printed in accordance with characteristics selected at said first node;

(h) inserting said printed document into said printed envelope to form an unfinished mail piece;

(i) sealing said unfinished mail piece;

(j) franking said unfinished mail piece, in accordance with characteristics selected at said first node and with characteristics determined at said second node, in order to form a finished mail piece; and

(k) placing said finished mail piece into a mail stream for delivery to said destination address printed thereon.